

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ROUTING EMAIL MESSAGES TO APPROPRIATE
ONES OF GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTRIBUTED EMAIL SERVERS****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method are disclosed which enable email messages to be routed to an email server determined to be appropriate for handling such email messages without requiring human intervention to accomplish such routing. According to one embodiment, a method is disclosed for routing email messages to an appropriate one of a plurality of distributed email servers without requiring human intervention for such routing. The method comprises receiving an email message at a first server, and executing software on the first server to autonomously determine characteristic information of a user having submitted information included in the email message. Software executes on the first server to autonomously select an appropriate one of a plurality of distributed email servers for receipt of the email message based at least in part on the determined characteristic information of the user, and the email message is routed to the selected email server.